

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Robin P. Fields,)
Certificate 124043)

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 11, 2005. On December 10, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing regarding a possible certificate suspension or revocation on the grounds of test security violations to Robin P. Fields by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Fields has now agreed to resolve the case without a hearing upon the following terms: (1) Ms. Fields' educator certificate will be suspended for a period commencing May 4, 2004 through December 31, 2004, (2) the suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "test security violations," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Fields' educator certificate on the agreed upon terms.

Accepted:

Initial Here

Date:

Robin P.
Fields,
#124043

FINDINGS OF FACT

Robin P. Fields holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over twenty-four years of teaching experience. For the 2003-2004 school year, Ms. Fields was a third grade teacher at Reidville Elementary in Spartanburg County School District Five. During the May 2004 administration of PACT testing, Ms. Fields assisted students in several ways, including sharing information about writing prompts, providing a dictionary, indicating a correct answer, and altering

the rulers to be used during the test. State Law Enforcement Division investigated the matter and concluded that no criminal conduct warranting prosecution had occurred, and recommended that the matter be handled through administrative action at the District level. As a disciplinary measure, the District placed Ms. Fields on administrative leave for the remainder of the 2003-04 school year and reassigned her to a non-core subject position for the 2004-05 school year.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. The Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Fields' educator certificate. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Suspension under the terms set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 11, 2005

I, Robin P. Fields, SC Educator Certificate 124043, do hereby agree to this Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, January 11, 2005.

1/7/05
Date

/S/ Robin P. Fields
Signature